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BILLINGS—The results of recently completed Competitive Sourcing studies of maintenance activities in Montana offices of the Bureau of Land Management have led to a decision to keep the functions in-house.

In March 2003, Montana/Dakotas BLM began three Competitive Sourcing studies which scrutinized the costs of hands-on maintenance functions of 27 positions in six Montana field offices -- Billings, Butte, Dillon, Lewistown, Miles City and Missoula. The studies, which were conducted by an independent contractor, considered functions related to “maintenance, repair, alteration, and minor construction of real property.” The comparisons show the estimated government cost to be at or below that of the comparable private sector range, so the BLM work force will continue to perform the work.

“We took a careful look at the work done by our maintenance folks, and found that they are providing excellent service for the same or less cost than estimated by private sources,” said Marty Ott, Montana State Director. “These studies have validated the efficiency of our organization, and confirm that our employees provide the best value.”

The Competitive Sourcing Initiative, part of the President’s Management Agenda, directs federal agencies to identify and implement the most economical, effective and efficient ways to deliver services. These studies were the first of several planned in the Montana/Dakotas BLM. Similar studies are occurring in other states and in other agencies.

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